

# **ELINOR WONDERS WHY**

"The Seed of an Idea"

Written by

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**RECORD DRAFT: 7-Jan-19**

**EXT. ELINOR'S SCHOOL -- DAY, DAY 1**

Title Card: "The Seed Of An Idea"

It's a crisp, clear morning in the forest. We see Elinor's school, buried among trees and surrounded by flowers and buzzing insects. We close in on a window and into...

**INT. ELINOR'S CLASSROOM -- DAY, CONTINUOUS**

The room is bright and colorful. ELINOR walks in wearing her backpack, smiling and hopping. She is excited for her day at school! As she walks, she passes other kids coming in and putting their things in their cubbyholes:

Elinor passes Ashley Bear, who undoes her hook and loop (i.e. "Velcro") boot straps. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor's ears perk up at that as she walks by.

1	ELINOR	1
	Hmmm.	

Next, Medhi Fox opens his backpack. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor's eyebrows jump.

2	ELINOR (CONT'D)	2
	Hmm?	

Javier Moose undoes the velcro fasteners on his jacket. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor takes notice.

3	ELINOR (CONT'D)	3
	Hmm...	

Elinor arrives at her cubby. Her friends OLIVE and ARI come to greet her.

4	OLIVE	4
	Hi, Elinor! You look extra curious today!	

5	ELINOR	5
	Oh, hi, Olive! Hi, Ari!	

6	ARI	6
	Are you CURIOUS to see something cool? Check THIS out!	

Ari holds out his hand. On his wrist is an oversized kid's watch.

7	ARI (CONT'D)	7
	I have a new watch!	

8	ELINOR	8
	Ooohh...	
9	OLIVE	9
	(Smiling) He's been showing it to everyone this morning.	
10	ARI	10
	My parents got it for me. They said it's to help me stay on track. Watch this!	
	Ari presses a button on the watch.	
11	WATCH ALARM	11
	Time to go to school!	
	Eat your vegetables!	
	Put your pants on!	
	Elinor and Olive look at each other.	
12	ARI	12
	Heh, sometimes I forget.	
	The kids giggle.	
13	ARI (CONT'D)	13
	Want to see my favorite part?	
	Look at the watch strap!	
	Ari opens and closes the hook and loop strap on his watch a few times. <i>Skrrrrrtch</i> . Elinor's eyes open wide.	
14	ELINOR	14
	Oooohhh...	
	At that moment, MS. MOLE, their teacher, calls them to order.	
15	MS. MOLE	15
	Ok, class, time to find our places!	
	All the kids move to the rug at the center of the room. Ms. Mole stands next to her desk.	
16	CLASS	16
	Good morning, Ms. Mole!	
17	MS. MOLE	17
	Good morning! Now, where is my book?	

She feels around on her desk and picks up a carrot.

18 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 18  
Ah ha! Is this it?

19 CLASS (ALL TOGETHER) 19  
No! / That's not it! / (Ari:)  
That's a carrot!

Ms. Mole gives a sly smile and sniffs the carrot.

20 MS. MOLE 20  
Oops! You're right!

She hunts around on the desk with her hands, picks up an eraser.

21 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 21  
Ok. This MUST be it.

22 CLASS 22  
No! / That's an eraser! / (Olive:  
That's not a book!)

Ms. Mole smiles again, sniffs it. She puts it down and picks up a book.

23 MS. MOLE 23  
Is THIS it?!

24 CLASS 24  
Yes! (Laughing)

25 MS. MOLE 25  
Nooooooow we are ready for the  
lesson!

Ms. Mole opens the book. There's a picture of a spiky seed on it.

26 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 26  
Today we are going to learn  
about... (dramatically) Nature's  
Ideas!

All of the kids are paying rapt attention, except for Elinor, who is looking at the watch on Ari's wrist. She moves to take a closer look.

27 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 27  
Nature has solved a lot of  
different kinds of problems and is  
full of useful ideas. For example--

Ms. Mole is interrupted by a sudden *Skrrrrrtch*. She turns from the picture book to look, and the noise stops. She scans the group of kids. Elinor is smiling innocently. After a beat, Ms. Mole turns back to her book. Elinor reaches for the watch again.

28 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 28  
Ahem. Nature is full of useful  
ideas, like --

She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrrtch-Skrrrrrtch*. She turns from the book to look, and the sound stops again. The kids look at each other. Everyone is puzzled!

29 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 29  
(Slowly returning to book)  
Nature is full of ideas, like --

She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrrtch-Skrrrrrtch*. This time she turns around very quickly. We see Elinor caught in the act of pulling on Ari's watch strap.

30 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 30  
Elinor...

31 ELINOR 31  
Ms. Mole!! This strap is sooo cool!

Elinor stands up and holds up Ari's watch with Ari still attached to it.

32 ELINOR (CONT'D) 32  
You can open it and close it and  
open it and close it...

She opens and closes the strap several times.

33 ELINOR (CONT'D) 33  
Most of it is soft and fuzzy,  
except for this scratchy patch...

She opens it and points to the patch of "hook" fabric on one end (the rest of the strap is made of loop fabric).

34 ELINOR (CONT'D) 34  
...which sticks to the fuzzy part  
of the strap. The two parts stick  
together like tape, but they aren't  
sticky!

Elinor puts her finger on the patch and shows it doesn't stick.

35 CLASS 35  
Oooohhh...

36 ELINOR 36  
That is SO interesting!  
And look! There's a patch like that  
on all sorts of things!

Elinor drags Ari over to the cubby area.

37 ELINOR (CONT'D) 37  
It keeps Ashley's boots closed...

She pulls the watch strap (and Ari) down to Ashley's boots  
and points out the hook patch on the boot straps.

38 ELINOR (CONT'D) 38  
It keeps Mehdi's backpack closed...

She drags Ari over to Mehdi's backpack and opens and closes  
the backpack twice, pointing out the hook patch on the flap.

39 ELINOR (CONT'D) 39  
And it's on Javier's coat!

Elinor holds the watch up to the coat's hook patch. Olive  
joins them.

40 OLIVE 40  
You're right, it's on everything!

Olive undoes the watch band and a relieved Ari hits the  
floor.

41 ELINOR 41  
But I never thought about it  
before. I wonder how it works?

Ms. Mole opens her mouth to say something, but at that  
moment, Ari's watch alarm beeps.

42 WATCH ALARM 42  
Time for recess! Time for recess!

43 MS. MOLE 43  
Ah, yes. Thank you, Ari's watch!  
It's time for recess!

All the kids cheer and stampede out the door, except for  
Elinor, Olive and Ari. They turn off the alarm and walk over  
to the rug to look at the strap closely. Elinor fixates on  
the patch of hook fabric on one end.



53	ELINOR	53
	Hmm, I have an idea... Let's try sticking the patch to a LOT of things, and see what it DOES and DOESN'T stick to. Maybe that will tell us how it works.	
54	OLIVE	54
	I'll make a list!	
Olive grabs a piece of paper. Ari hands her a crayon. Using her trunk to hold the crayon, Olive draws a big T on the paper. She labels one side of the T with a check mark and the other with an "X."		
55	OLIVE (CONT'D)	55
	Ready!	
56	ELINOR	56
	Let's see... Ari's sweater: yes.	
Olive doodles a sweater on the check mark column.		
57	ELINOR (CONT'D)	57
	Chair: no.	
Olive doodles a chair on the "X" column.		
58	ARI	58
	How about the rug?	
He grabs the strap and sticks the patch to the rug.		
59	ELINOR	59
	Rug: yes, it sticks!	
Olive doodles a little carpet on the check mark side. They try more locations. Olive records the observation each time.		
60	ELINOR (CONT'D)	60
	Chalkboard: no!	
61	ELINOR (CONT'D)	61
	Olive's trunk: no!	
Olive raises her eyebrows, but makes a doodle.		
62	OLIVE	62
	So the patch sticks to Ari's sweater and the rug, and... nothing else.	
63	ELINOR	63
	(Scratching her head) Hmmm...	



They pause and think.

64                               ARI                               64  
    (Eyeing the playground) We could  
    try some things outside?

65 ELINOR 65  
Yeah, good idea!

66                   ARI                   66  
We're going outside!

The kids go out the door. Elinor looks excited about their project and gives a hop or two. Olive is twirling her trunk and looking over her notes.

**EXT. THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. -- DAY, CONTINUOUS**

There are kids playing on the swings and slides as Elinor, Olive and Ari come outside.

67 ELINOR 67  
Ooh, let's try that tree!

Elinor takes the watch and bounces over to a tree. She tries to stick the hook patch to the tree.

68 ELINOR (CONT'D) 68  
Tree: no.

Olive records it.

69 ELINOR (CONT'D) 69  
 Hmm, we need MORE OBSERVATIONS!

A ditty begins to play and the kids sing a song:

70 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 70

(Singing)

We want to solve the mystery,  
Of how this sticks so stickily.  
We're going to try it here...!  
And there...!  
And everywhere!  
When I have a question I don't  
know,  
I look for answers high and low  
We're going to try the rocks...!  
This log...!  
And even this frog!  
Into the woods and under the  
treeeeeees,  
We follow our curiosity!!

As they sing, they begin in the playground and wander among the bushes and trees nearby. They are dancing (and hopping and flying) a bit and trying the strap's hook patch on various things: bushes (no), acorns (no), rocks (no), etc.

**EXT. CLEARING -- DAY**

They emerge from some bushes and come to a small clearing, gathering around Olive's list. Ari has some twigs and seed burrs stuck to his clothes and fur.

71	OLIVE	71
	Ok, the scratchy patch sticks to sweaters and rugs, but not anything else!	

72 ELINOR 72  
 Hmm, I don't see how it works. Do  
 you guys?

The kids shake their heads.

73	ARI	73
	It's such a sticky mystery!	

They think for a moment: Elinor's ears cross or wiggle; Olive scratches her head with the crayon. Ari notices the seed burrs stuck to him and tries to shake them off.

74                                      ARI (CONT'D)                                      74

Ack!

He goes through a few shakes and contortions, but the seed burrs don't come off. He gets a little alarmed.

75                         ARI (CONT'D)                         75  
Ah! These seeds won't come off!

Elinor goes over and grabs one of the seed burrs and pulls it off. It makes a small *skrrrrrtch* sound. Ari sighs in relief.

76                               ARI (CONT'D)                               76

Thanks!

Elinor sticks it back on Ari and pulls it again. *Skrrrtch*. Her eyes go wide.

77                               ARI (CONT'D)                               77

Hey!

78	ELINOR	78
	Look, this seed sticks to Ari's sweater just like the scratchy patch! It even makes the same sound!	
	I wonder...	
	Elinor takes the seed and sticks it to the fuzzy side of the strap ( <i>Skrrrtch</i> ).	
79	ARI	79
	Whoa...	
80	OLIVE	80
	The seed also sticks to the fuzzy part of the strap!	
81	ELINOR	81
	(Examining a seed burr) What is this little seed?	
	The kids crowd together and look really closely at the seed. They see that the seed has lots of little hooks on it.	
82	ARI	82
	Look at all those little hooks.	
	They follow the seed closely as they stick it to Ari's sweater. They see the little hooks catch on the loops in the fabric, and when they pull it, the hooks let go, making a small <i>skrrrtch</i> sound.	
83	ELINOR	83
	It sticks because the little hooks grab the fuzziness of the sweater. Hmmm...	
	They look really closely now at the patch of "hooks" fabric on the watch strap.	
84	ARI	84
	The patch on the strap also has little hooks!	
85	OLIVE	85
	They're even tinier. I hadn't seen them before!	
86	ELINOR	86
	THAT's how it works! It's the tiny little hooks that make the patch sticky.	

They open and close the strap several times. They look closer and we see the hooks grabbing the loops in action.

87 Ohhh... ARI 87

88 ELINOR 88  
(Examining the fuzzy side  
of the strap)  
But the hooks need something fuzzy  
with little loops to grab on to.

Olive checks her list.

89

OLIVE

Yeah! That's why the patch only sticks to these fuzzy things (points to the items on the check mark side), and not to these other things that aren't fuzzy. These things don't have little loops for the hooks to grab!

89

The kids smile at each other, sharing a feeling of excitement at having solved the puzzle.

ARI

We solved the mystery!

91 ELINOR 91  
Let's tell Ms. Mole!

Elinor dashes off back to the playground, followed by Olive and then Ari, who flaps to catch up.

EXT. PLAYGROUND -- DAY

Elinor swooshes down the slide and jumps on the swing, landing first. Ari flies over and Olive comes up last, puffing slightly. They find Ms. Mole sitting by the playground.

92 ELINOR 92  
Ms. Mole, we figured it out!

93 OLIVE 93  
It's the little hooks on the  
patch...

94                   ARI                   94  
That make the strap stick together!

95	ELINOR	95
	But the hooks only stick to things that are fuzzy and have little loops in them.	
 Elinor makes a loop with two fingers and a hook with one finger from the other paw and demonstrates.		
96	ELINOR (CONT'D)	96
	The hooks on the patch grab loops on the fuzzy part and stick together! And then... <i>skrrrrrtch!</i>	
 Ms. Mole nods sagely and her nose twitches.		
97	MS. MOLE	97
	My, I smell some clever little scientists. I knew you would figure it out!	
 Elinor holds up one of the seeds.		
98	ELINOR	98
	We figured it out from looking at this spiky seed, like the one you were... uh, <i>trying</i> (she looks sheepish) to teach us about before.	
 Elinor sticks the seed to Ari.		
99	MS. MOLE	99
	That is interesting! The strap and the seed work the same way. Why do you think that is?	
 Ari gasps in realization.		
100	ARI	100
	Did the seed COPY the idea from the watch strap?	
 Ms. Mole smiles.		
101	OLIVE	101
	I think that would be silly... (Unsure) Wouldn't it?	
102	ELINOR	102
	I bet the idea for the strap came FROM the seeds!	
103	MS. MOLE	103
	That's right!	

Ms. Mole pulls out the same book she was trying to show the kids earlier.

104 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 104  
I was just about to tell you the whole story...

Ms. Mole opens the book to the page we saw earlier, which shows the seed with lots of hooks. She turns the page to an illustration of Georges de Mistral (the inventor of hook and loop) as a dog character walking in the forest; the picture becomes animated as she explains.

105 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 105  
Georges de Mistral was an inventor who lived a long time ago. He loved to go for walks in the woods, but always came back with some seeds stuck to his fur and clothes.

The dog notices the seed burrs sticking to him.

106 ELINOR 106  
It's the same seeds we found!

107 MS. MOLE 107  
That's right! The seed has little hooks so it can grab on to things and grow in different places.

As Ms. Mole talks, we see Ari notice a butterfly and follow it into the bushes.

108 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 108  
(Back to the book) George wondered if he could use the same idea and make the hooks and loops himself. That way, he could get OTHER things to stick together.

The dog is in a workshop making the first hook-and-loop prototype. Later, he tests it on a new coat. Skkkkrtch!

109 ELINOR 109  
Wow. Nature really DOES have some good ideas, Ms. Mole. I'm glad we went to explore in it!  
  
(Singing)  
Into the woods and under the trees,  
We can follow our curiosity!

Ms. Mole smiles and winks.

110 MS. MOLE 110  
 Well, I think it's great that you  
 didn't give up and figured it out  
 yourselves!

At that moment, Ari comes from the bushes, completely covered  
 in seed burrs from head to toe. Olive is startled.

111 OLIVE 111  
 Ah!

112 ARI 112  
 Yeah, you could say we really STUCK  
 with it!

They all laugh.

END.